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Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

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Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/71/L.25

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/71/L.25, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to appoint an eminent person to review the potential new information, including that which may be available from Member States, to assess its probative value, to determine the scope that any further inquiry or investigation should take, and, if possible, to draw conclusions from the investigations already conducted.

II. Relationship of the proposed request to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/6 (Sect. 1).

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III. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

3. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would appoint an eminent person to review the potential new information, to assess its probative value, and to recommend the way forward. The tasks of the eminent person are foreseen as follows:

(a) To review the report of the Commission of Jurists on the Inquiry into the Death of Dag Hammarskjöld (see A/68/800) and the information relied on by the Commission in its report, together with any relevant records and information that may be provided by Member States;

(b) To review the report of the Independent Panel of Experts concerning the investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him (see A/70/132) and the information relied on by the Independent Panel of Experts in its report, as well as the information subsequently obtained from Member States and individuals, as referred to in the note by the Secretary-General of 17 August 2016 (A/70/1017);

(c) If necessary and appropriate, to interview witnesses, including expert witnesses;

(d) To produce a report, to include:

(i) A summary of and any findings on new information obtained since the conclusion of the work of the Independent Panel of Experts;

(ii) An assessment of the probative value of that new information for the purpose of identifying the cause or causes of the incident and determining its attribution to any individual or entity;

(iii) As the eminent person may deem appropriate, new statements from witnesses who were interviewed and new information obtained, to be affixed as appendices;

(iv) A determination of the scope that any further inquiry or investigation should take, or, if the eminent person is of the opinion that a further inquiry or investigation may not be beneficial, to draw conclusions from the investigations already conducted.

IV. Financial implications of the proposals

4. Additional one-time resource requirements in the amount of $329,300 to cover the costs of: (a) general temporary assistance, including for an eminent person (Assistant Secretary-General) and a programme and reporting officer (P-4) for a period of six months each; (b) consultant to provide specialized expertise (forensics and document analysis); (c) travel costs; and (d) other operating expenses, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The details of these additional resource requirements are set out in the table below.

(United States dollars)

	Total resource requirements for 2017
Section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	
General temporary assistance: 1 Assistant Secretary-General and 1 P-4 for six months each	233 800
Consultant	30 200
Travel of staff	57 200
Contractual services	3 500
General operating expenses	4 100
Supplies and materials	500
Total, section 1	**329 300**

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2016-2017

5. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the implementation of the activities requested under operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. It is not possible to identify activities within the section concerned of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of $329,300 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017.

VI. Contingency fund

6. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

VII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

7. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/71/L.25, additional resource requirements in the amount of $329,300 for 2017, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The amount of $329,300 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund. An amount of $29,400 would also be required under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**